

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 4 of page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This patent application is related to a US patent application entitled “Liveness Monitoring in a Publish/Subscribe Messaging System”, serial no 10/714,049 \_\_\_\_\_ filed on November 13, 2003, \_\_\_\_\_, attorney docket no GB920030046US1, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 21 of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

For example, the broker may listen on the multicast channel and may hear a subscriber “claiming” that it will respond to the [[broke]] broker without any explicit response to the broker being necessary (see later).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 24 of page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Step 460 [[450]] Any subscriber which is waiting for a backoff timer to expire can cancel the timer and discard the status packet.